

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
TAKUEI ISHIKAWA ET AL.) : Examiner: Lam S. Nguyen
Application No.: 10/549,674) : Group Art Unit: 2853
Filed: September 19, 2005) : Confirmation No.: 8441
For: INK-JET PRINTING METHOD)
AND INK-JET PRINTING) :
APPARATUS) : March 6, 2007

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO ELECTION-OF-SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the election-of-species set forth in the Office Action dated February 6, 2007.

In the Office Action, it was alleged that the inventions of Species I, drawn to "an ink jet printing apparatus that performs scanning in different number of times respective to an area within the scanning area or to the position ejection orifices printing the scanning area," and Species II, drawn to "an ink jet printing apparatus that performs ejecting a liquid from ejection orifices with different printability duty accordantly to the position of ejection orifices," are patentably distinct.

Applicants respectfully submit that the indicated species are closely related and that a proper search of any of the claims of one would likely include a search of the claims of the others. Thus, it is submitted that all of the claims pending in the subject application can be searched simultaneously and that a duplicative search with possibly inconsistent results may occur if the election-of-species requirement is maintained. Therefore, in the interest of economy, both for the Office and the Applicants, withdrawal of the election-of-species requirement is respectfully solicited.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.143, Applicants provisionally elect Species I. Applicants submit that Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-14, 16 and 17 read on Species I.

Favorable consideration and prompt passage to issue of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. Office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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